AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 48 of the Specification, beginning at page 20, line 18 as follows:

When crystallization steps are performed continuously, it is also possible to obtain larger crystals by feeding a homogeneously dissolved solution, or a liquid in which crystals have partially ~~began~~ begun to deposit, into a crystallization slurry vessel, the temperature of which is pre-adjusted to a scheduled temperature [[at]] for the completion of crystallization, to thereby allow the growth of L-aspartic acid crystals in the crystallization slurry vessel. In this case, the cooling may be performed by a method in which water is evaporated under reduced pressure, a method in which jackets, cooling coils, etc. are used, or the like. Especially preferable is the method in which water is evaporated under reduced pressure to deprive the solution of the heat of evaporation. As a method for feeding a homogeneously dissolved solution into a pressure-reduced vessel, for example, a method in which an orifice or the like is provided so that the solution undergoes resistance before entering the vessel, or a method in which the slurry is circulated from the crystallization slurry vessel and the solution is introduced into this line is especially preferable. According to such a method, a solution somewhat supersaturated with L-aspartic acid can be generated constantly. As a result, deposited crystals are easy to grow. A feeding rate of the homogeneously dissolved solution does not have to be controlled, as long as a fed liquid is cooled enough to keep the temperature within the crystallization slurry vessel, preferably 25°C or more, more preferably 30°C or more, preferably 100°C or less, more preferably 80°C or less, most preferably 60°C or less. In continuous crystallization, the residence time of the crystallization slurry is at least 1 minute or more, preferably 10 minutes or more, more preferably 30 minutes or more; and is at the maximum 10 hours or less, preferably 5 hours or less, more preferably 2 hours or less.